OCIL 21344 C

"TIDES OF PASSION"

Adapted from IN THE GARDEN OF CHARITY by BASIL KING

Director: J. Stuart Blackton Seven Reel Drama

manan Constance THE VITAGRAPH COMPANY OF AMERICA

SYNOPSIS

Charity Byfleet, living at Fisher's Grant, on the north Atlantic coast, falls in love and marries William Penland, a soldier. A short time after the wedding, Penland is ordered to duty in the West Indies, promising to come back as soon as he possibly could, after his discharge.

But from the West Indies, William drifts to Calcutta, where he falls in love with a married woman. Again he drifts on to Monte Carlo, where he makes big winnings at roulette, and he drifts on and on, stopping here and there, until he arrives in London, "down and out".

For eight years, Charity has awaited his return, never doubting his constancy. Jone Boutelier, a peddler, whom she had turned down to wed William, insists that she need wait no longer, but she refuses to lose hope of William's return.

In London, William obtains a steamer ticket, expecting to return, but a girl he meets there persuades him to remain. A few weeks later, however, he decides to return and finally sets forth on the voyage. The vessel was not far from the American shore, nearing Fisher's Grant, and Charity -- when William, unable to withstand making overtures to the skipper's wife, is knocked into the water, and left to drown by the skipper and his wife.

Hagar Levanti, part Portuguese, part Greek, part Indian, strolling along the shore, away from Alick Eisenhauer and Michael Klingsor, her two combatant suitors, considerably north of Fisher's Grant, comes upon William, who had been washed in, half-dead. She has Alick and Michael drag him to her shack and there she nurses him back to health. Not wishing Hagar to suffer the scorn of the villagers and their gossip, William marries her.

Jonas travelling on his route, see the couple together and upbraids William for his faithlessness. Then when Williams refuses to listen to him further, Joan returns to Fisher's Grant and reports his discovery to Charity, who, thoroughly incensed, tears up her marriage certificate and throws it out into the garden. Jonas persuades Charity to go and get Williams.

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William discloses his duplicity to Hagar, and claiming Charity has prior claim on him, determines to return to her. After much persuasion Hagar promises to row him to an island, where a chastwise vessel would pick him up on a signal from Hagar on the mainland. But Hagar does not give the vessel the signal, and he is left to starve on the island. After many days, however, she relents and rows out to him in a terrific storm, but William was almost dead from starvation. Their boat is overturned and the girl, swimming to shore, guides William, as he floats on his back.

Jonas bringing Charity to Hagar's shack, to claim William, arrives too late. Although he recognizes his first wife, he soon dies. Feeling sorry for Hagar, who is soon to become a mother, Jonas persuades Charity to be kind and take her back home with her. The baby, a boy, the image of his father, is cared jealously for by the two women. Hagar feeling that Charity hates and despises her, and unable to bear her kindnesses any longer, decides to take the baby and leave. She confesses to Charity that she had killed William in order to prevent his return to her, Charity. In her fury, Charity attacks the girl.

Michael who had seen Hagar's rescue of William and overheard her plan to kill him, denounces Hagar as a murderess, in a mass meeting of indignant town gossipers. The mob, with him among the leaders, go down to Charity's shack, bent on vengeance. Charity hears them call for Hagar in the midst of her attack, and throws the girl in their midsts.

Back in the room, with the baby cooing to her, a re-action sets in, she is moved by the mob's cruelty, rushes out and, in declaring that William had driven Hagar to kill him, insists that she (Charity) had suffered far more than anybody else but that she forgave Hagar. Then the crowd relents, and the women attend to Michael and punish him.

Slipping into the house, Hagar writes a note to Chairty leaving the baby for her, and leaves, bent on destroying herself. Charity returns, finds the note, and goes in pursuit. A furious storm is raging. In flashes of lightning she makes out Hagar ahead, stumbling along. She calls to Hagar, but the latter keeps going. Suddenly a huge boulder starts above, causing a landslide. Charity hurries forward, and by a mighty effort, stumbles to Hagar's side. She drags her away just in time. Then she pleads with Hagar to return with her and at length Hagar tearfully agrees, and both find themselves on a rock, with the tide ever rising higher and higher about them. There is no way to get back as they could never swim against that tide and the rocks. Jonas and Alick in search of them see their difficulty. With the aid of a rope, Jonas swims out to them, and they are brought safely to shore.

Later, Jonas and Alick appear, and Hagar and Charity shy accept them.

The end.

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